NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Merry Christmas

NIAGARA NEWS

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16 pages

Weather

Sunny, cool;
slippery after sleet

Santa storms into Niagara

Photo by Wayne Nicholls

Happy New Year

Theatre Centre students Phil Butchart, Celeste Mestern, Leslie Furness, Joy Learn and Michael Guard clutch their souvenir stamp collection, gifts of the Welland Post Office. The gifts were presented to the five by post office representative Harry Fonfara, third from left, in recognition of the window painting created by the students.
Photo by Sean Condon

Students decorate window

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Welland post office thanks to five theatre students.

Michael Guard, Celeste Mestern, and Phil Butchart of second-year technical theatre arts, and first-year students Joy Learn and Leslie Furness spent three days painting a window display at the Divison Street post office. They worked after school — one night from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. — for a total of 16 hours to bring a little Christmas cheer to the people of downtown Welland.

"I board with someone who works here," Celeste said. "He said they were thinking of painting the windows." All that was necessary from that point on were paint, time and a few people willing to put in some unpaid hours.

Their volunteer efforts have given birth to scenes of Yuletide life and legend. Santa rides through the sky on the night before Christmas at one end of the building, while Ebenezer Scrooge sees the errors of his ways on the other. A Chinese girl holds up a "Joyeux Noel" banner with her European friend signalling the celebration of International Youth Year.

RIGHT SPIRIT

"We are looking at trying to get our patrons into the Christmas spirit," Harry Fonfara, acting superintendent of collection at the post office, said. "And you have to appreciate artwork like that."

Though the post office could not afford to pay the students for their efforts, Mr. Fonfara presented each of them with 1985 Canadian Souvenir Stamp Collection, valued at about $22 a set, and a letter of on behalf of the post office. He said it was first time the office had been blessed with a display of such scope.

The Theatre Centre artists agreed that the experience gave a definite boost to their scenic painting skills. Michael said the only real problem in window painting was avoiding paint streaks and choosing the right colors. "The colors have to be very light."

If the enthusiams of theatre students holds up over the years, decorating the post office could become a Christmas tradition. "I don't think I'd mind doing it again," Leslie said.

Children can explore 'human garden' idea

By KAROLIN ALKERTON
Staff Writer

Flowers are all different shapes, sizes and colors and this variety makes a garden party.

Comparing the human community to a flower garden, James Nicholas, president of the United Nations Association of Canada and international relations teacher at Niagara, tells of the International Children's Centre's focus on the common aspects of the varied differences.

The seeds to yield understanding of this human garden were sown in November, 1981, in response to a need for premises where children could be provided with an opportunity to explore the human community.

"Children like to feel and explore these types of things," Mr. Nicholas said.

The human neighborhood has cultural, geographical, religious and language differences, but common fundamental needs.

The International Children's Centre sponsored by the United Nations Association of Canada received a Canada Works Grant in May enabling three people to be hired to assist establishing a centre where children are able to come and learn of other cultures.

Temporarily located at 269 Thorold Rd., the project centre houses the three present staff members, Donna Oliver, program co-ordinator; Elizabeth Pelt, graphic artist and Frances Balint, typist cataloguer, who busily collect cultural artifacts reflecting fundamental human needs and activities common to all children and in which they can actively participate.

"Kids are going to come in and do; not just look," Mrs. Balint said.

The centre hopes clubs and organizations in the Niagara peninsula can assist in providing a cross-cultural array of items.

"This is a community effort," Mr. Nicholas said, and invites public support.

"It has been sociologically proved that when one can understand and appreciate other cultures, people become more open and broadminded," he said.

The seed to this unique learning environment has been planted and community support will make its continued growth possible.

Classifieds

WANTED: Students interested in working SAC pubs. Duties include stage hands, bartenders and door men. Average wage is $5 an hour. If interested, contact Hugo Bessems at the Student Liaison office in the Black Walnut building.

HELP WANTED: Gain valuable marketing experience while earning money. Campus representative needed immediately for spring break trip to Florida. Call Brad Nelson toll-free 1-800-423-5264.

At Mack Centre

Revised committee covers all services

A clinical co-ordinating committee serving the nursing students at Mack Centre was revised to include all health services programs.

The committee, designed to determine student numbers and how they can be accomodated in hospital areas, was revised in 1984, Lois Millar, chairman at Mack Centre, said.

The Clinical Co-ordinating Committee acts as liaison between staffs of nursing service departments and education, interprets policies of education to the directors of nursing and administrative practices and policies to chairmen and co-ordinators of the division of education.

It also reviews clinical areas to which students are assigned and plans changes in the best interests of the educational program and the hospital and clinical experience for the students.

The programs of nursing; registered nurses and nurses assistants refresher programs, health care aides and hospital orderlies and ambulance and emergency care are served by the committee.

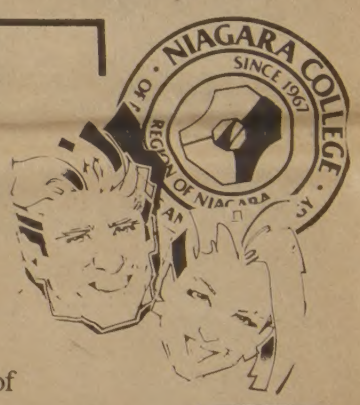
These programs use seven area hospitals for clinical practices, Miss Millar said.

On the board of the committee are; Miss Millar, chairman; Robert Baddeley, chairman of health services of allied health; seven directors of nursing, three co-ordinators of nursing and one co-ordinator each from health care aides, ambulance and emergency care and registered nurses assistants.

Season's Greetings

The Rush is on!

The big day is quickly approaching and with all the school work to do, you're probably wondering where the time went to shop for Christmas presents. Well, the FASHION CLUB BOUTIQUE SAYS;
'DON'T PANIC !!!



FASHION CLUB

Come in and browse through our wide selection of men's and women's clothing, including oversized sweaters , stirrup pants, shirts, and jeans. For great last - minute gifts we have jewellery, socks, nylons, bags, and other accessories to brighten the holidays. Why not give a **FASHION CLUB BOUTIQUE GIFT CERTIFICATE** to that discerning individual who's a little difficult to buy for. Or how about the album "**ON THE MOVE**" by our own **NIAGARA COLLEGE JAZZ BAND,** for those who like big band sound combined with modern jazz, only **$9.00** at the **FASHION CLUB BOUTIQUE.**

So ,why get into a frenzy shopping all over the city when the **FASHION CLUB BOUTIQUE** is here at your convenience for holiday shopping.

operated by fashion arts niagara college
woodlawn road welland ontario

3rd PAGE

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa supplied Christmas cheer for staff and students during his annual ERT visit

Wants help with pub planning

The Student Administrative Council is asking students to help plan future pubs by answering a survey stating their preferences and attitudes toward pubs.

"The survey will help us determine what the students want," Ann Buller, activities co-ordinator, said. "We want to take direction from the survey because we are in the process of making plans for the pubs next semester."

Some of the things the survey asks is: where pubs will be held, what kinds of bands students would like to see, which night would be the best for a pub night, what a fair price is for a band and why students would not attend a pub.

"We want to know why students don't attend pubs and what they think about having them on or off campus," Ann said.

On-campus pubs return to Niagara Dec. 13 after administration approved a $6 million liability insurance policy SAC purchased. Four SAC pubs have been held at the Aquaduck and one at JB's Corral in St. Catharines.

The term end pub features the band Secret Lives. Tickets are $4 for students $5 for guests and are available at the SAC office.

Feds drop funding, cut training staff

By NANCY ROACH
Staff Writer

Niagara College may lose a large portion of job training staff in the next three years because of the federal government's decision to divert the financial burden of job training to the private sector.

Jacqueline Robarts, college president, said institutional training across Canada can expect to lose as much as 40 per cent of job training, which will be phased out over three years. The federal government wants to get back to on-the-job training, she said last week.

About $6 million of the college's budget is allotted to job training and the college stands to lose almost half this revenue.

Miss Robarts expressed concern for the quality of training under this system. "Training is not their (industry's) job; producing is." Companies want to make a profit. They would rather hire trained personnel supplied by colleges, she said.

Another big concern is the potential loss in faculty and the fear that equipment used in some job training programs will become obsolete.

EVEN BETTER

Miss Robarts said the college must now "try to do what we do, even better." If the government subsidizes industries, the college must prove it trains better than anyone else, she said. And if the college can become more adaptable and able to respond to needs, "industries we do serve won't want to move the training."

Another fear is the possibility of the government changing its mind after colleges have lost staff and equipment has become obsolete, Miss Robarts said.

The government has never said colleges were doing a bad job, she said. "A lot of people are lobbying against moving the training."

It is difficult to guess where cuts in programs wil come, but machine shop and welding are potential targets, Miss Robarts said.

Low number of graduates prompts administration study

By SEAN CONDON
Staff Writer

A retention study will be conducted by Niagara College to look into the low percentage of graduates in some courses, the Board of Governors decided Nov. 28.

Jacqueline Robarts, college president, said a committee of senior administration members will be set up "to find out why students who leave do so, because there seems to be such a high loss."

However, Miss Robarts stressed after the meeting that it was not the objective of the study to "lower standards so people can graduate."

At the board meeting, the president pointed to graduate percentages in journalism-print, where nine graduated who of 48 who began the course, and interior design, which graduated 15 of 38.

"We expect attrition of 50 per cent, but this is well in excess of that rate," she told board members.

BEST RETENTION

"The one area where we have best retention is the Health Sciences programs."

Miss Robarts said after the meeting that she realized some students get jobs before graduation or "fail out." The study is being introduced to find out why some students fail to pick up elective credits and will "try to deal with the ones who don't feel they are getting the help they need from an instructor or a course."

The study will be the result of discussions with the office of the registrar, program co-ordinators, deans, chairmen, and "probably students,though we haven't really thought it through." Data collection will be made through interviews and questionnaires.

"It probably won't get started much before February," Miss Robarts said. "It is not something that is going to get done overnight. We will more likely have some kind of report to take back to the board in September."

She said members of the study committee will come from within the college. Dr. Nora McCardell, executive director of educational and student services, and John Parrett, registrar, were mentioned as possible members.

GRAD. PHOTOS
DECEMBER 13 &14
FOR DENTAL ASSISTANTS &
DENTAL HYGIENISTS
DECEMBER 15-31
FOR ALL GRADUATING
STUDENTS.

STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENTS IN THE SAC OFFICE

SITTING CHARGE $5.00

Mini caf buffet 'hot' winter idea

The mini-caf is serving up hot buffet lunches just in time for the cold winter days.

One end of the mini-caf will be entirely devoted to the hot buffet and will serve sausages and sauerkraut, casserole dishes and special coffee made with freshly-ground beans every day.

"A lot of students don't have time to walk over to the cafeteria," Maurice Haynes, district manger of Versa Services, said. "We thought we'd come to the students."

Mr. Haynes wants student feedback about the new hot foods

Hort students selling Christmas poinsettias

Students in need of a Christmas gift for someone who is impossible to buy for may get their solution from second-year students of the greenhouse horticulture class.

The Horticulture Centre students are in the midst of their annual poinsettia drive. Paul Holla, a technician at the centre, said poinsettias and chrysanthemums will be available in six-inch pots at about $3.50 for poinsettias and $2.50 for mums.

A poinsettia-mum combination will also be available, probably for about $5 to $5.50, he said.

Sales are being conducted at the Horticulture Centre in St. Catharines and plants will be on sale some time during the week of Dec. 16 at the Welland campus. Mr. Holla said he was not sure whether plants will go on sale at the Welland Vale or Mack Nursing campuses, but students might use last year's system of taking orders and delivering poinsettias to the Mack school.

Proceeds of the drive will be used to support the centre's annual spring open house and contribute to the annual New York trip for second-year students.

Rosen on team

Seek addiction centre

The Niagara peninsula needs a short-term residential and day-treatment addiction centre and Sherri Rosen is part of the team looking for people who want to develop one.

Ms. Rosen, Niagara College labor studies co-ordinator, said there is a real need for the centre. About $1.2 million of Ontario health insurance money goes across the border to a New York facility, she said.

Ms. Rosen has also been appointed to the board of the Unemployed Help Centre in St. Catharines, which assists unemployed workers.

Referring to the addiction centre, Ms. Rosen said a special task force set up by the District Health Council is asking for tenders from people interested in developing a non-profit facility.

A sub-committee of the District Health Council found that addiction services in the peninsula offer a large treatment network but lack day-treatment and short-term residential facilities.

The task force will develop an advertisement for tenders, guidelines for interested parties, and an evaluation method. All tenders will be ranked by the task force and sent to the District Health Council which will recommend one proposal to the health ministry.

The task force, made up of three members of the District Health Council, three members of the community, and one member of the Ministry of Health, hopes to complete its task by mid-March.

The Unemployed Help Centre is involved in counselling, locating potential employers, and functions as a "stress stop" where unemployed workers can meet with peers experiencing similar problems, Ms. Rosen said.

Funding for the centre has been precarious, but partial funding from the United Way was approved last month, she said. Both the District Labor Council and the Ontario Federation of Labor have been active supporters of the centre.

We wish YOU Merry Christmas

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The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College.

Editorials

Red, white, and what?

December 25 could well be declared the longest day of the year. After all, it begins on or about Nov. 1, culminating in that one day dominated by shades of red, white, and green.

As quickly as Halloween candy kisses are whisked away from grocery store shelves, they are replaced by Christmas toques in varying hues of red, white and green. Dry little cookies dressed in red, white and green frosting spring up seemingly from nowhere, dragging along with them hard red, white and green allsorts of dubious edibility.

Fruitcakes with red and green cherries under layers of white snow-like icing appear in abundance. At this point there is no denying that the lengthy process leading to the 25th has begun.

Shopping mall maintenance people scurry about, erecting gaudy red, white, and green decorations, while clerks in stationery departments everywhere relegate scores of run-of-the-mill birthday cards and wrapping paper to stockrooms, making way for items of the red, white and green variety. This is rather unfortunate for those poor souls born in November or December.

To top it all off, bi-weekly newspapers bedecked in red, white and green print, can be found issued as early as two weeks and a bit before the 25th.

Oh well! Merry Nov. 1, Dec. 25, and all days in between.

Marie Chamberland

One costly time of year

A dark cloud of doom, better known as the fear of exams, hangs over the college as some students make last-minute attempts to learn what the teachers have been trying to drill into their heads the entire term.

With bloodshot eyes, study-weary, coffee-drinking students walk the halls, proof that zombies do exist. Just when they think nothing could be worse, some bright, cheerful person mentions Christmas and they hit the panic button. Christmas? Now? But where has all the money gone?

Pockets are empty, OSAP loans are already spent and the piggy bank is a pile of porcelain in the dark recesses of the closet.

It seems today more and more people are feeling the economic pinch and pushing Christmas aside with a "Bah, humbug." Ebenezer Scrooge may be a fictional character but his fan club members come out in full force. They are the ones who never have money, buy any presents at K-mart flashing blue light specials, and bargain with street corner Santas about how much they are willing to donate.

Who ever said people have to spend lots of money at Christmas? So what if Charlie Brown's tree is not a piece of art or there are hot dogs and french fries for dinner. Christmas is what people make it, no matter how little or how much they have. This Christmas, everyone should be thankful for what they have instead of worrying about what they do not have.

Believe it or not, a few people actually enjoy the holiday season.

Audrey Barrick

Vandals hit windows, truck

Vandalism to the college campus can be blamed on immaturity, rowdyness and horseplay but the "responsibility" demonstrated by the majority of the student body has made sure the vandals are caught, Jack Spittle, plant and property manager, said.

Four or five windows have been smashed, a custodian's car was damaged and some tables had to be removed from the corridors outside the library to try to put a stop to the problem.

"Ball hockey in the hallways and playing baseball in Manera Court which is surronded by windows, is just not a mature thing to do," Hugo Bessems, student liaison officer, said.

"We are hoping students will realize this on their own and that they should have soem consideration for their fellow students."

ANGRY PARKER

In one incident, a custodian had some minor damage done to his car by a student who was angry because his illegally parked car was blocked in by the custodian.

In another, a student, frustrated because his student loan was not in, kicked in a window at Hennepin Hall.

"This was a normally sensible young man who let his frustrations get out of hand," Mr. Spittle said. "This is the sort of thing the college cannot tolerate so the student will have to pay for the repair."

Outside the library has become an area of concern with one window being smashed. Five tables were removed to stop students from gambling and because faculty complained about the noise, Mr. Spittle said.

The cost of replacing the windows ranges from $30 to about $120 for the library window. If students are caught, they must pay for the repairs. If they don't, their grades will be withheld.

"A good number of responsible students should be commended for coming forward and letting us know who broke the windows," Mr. Spittle said.

Santa Claus at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines takes a smoke break. The job can be tiring at times, but he enjoys working with children. In fact, he likes his work so much that he feels it is too bad he cannot play Santa all year long.
Photo By Elaine Trojan

Santa quits, or...

Call of the Weld

By ELAINE TROJAN
Staff Writer

Santa Claus is going to retire — he wants to become a welder. However, the children who have been good all year in hope of getting lots of presents need not worry. Santa Claus is 27-year-old Bob Crabbe, who has been a plausible fill-in for Father Christmas for the children visiting the Pen Centre in St. Catharines.

Most children ask for toys, he said, with the exception of one four-year-old boy who wanted underwear. The hot toys this year are Cabbage Patch kids, Skeletor, Care Bears and Barbie dolls.

Santa is not just for children, though. A group of Dennis Morris High School cheerleaders paid him a visit a few weeks ago, and he was more than pleased to entertain them.

"One girl asked me for a Chippendale for Christmas," Bob said. "I told her, sure, she could have it. I thought it was a store or something, but she told me it was a male stripper."

So far, the only test of his credibility was his two daughters. Brandy, 4, and Jennifer, 5, came to the Pen to visit. He mistakenly said Brandy's name, but managed to cover for himself by changing his voice. Later, when he saw the two girls, they both told him about the Santa that was just like their daddy.

However, besides his daughter and a few hecklers, no one has doubted that he really is Santa. It wouldn't worry him even if he was discovered. "I could always become the Easter Bunny," he said.

Being Santa Claus involves more than ho-hoing and knowing all the names of the reindeer. It requires patience, a love of children, and at times, knowing the right thing to say.

"One boy said that he wanted to live with his parents for Christmas," said Bob. He told the boy that some things were out of Santa's league but that he should hold his head up and pray a lot.

He won the job, which pays $6 an hour, over an actor. "I knew the names of all the reindeer and all the latest toys."

Although he's on a waiting list to take a welding course at Niagara College, he says that he wouldn't mind being Santa all year. The job has changed the way people act toward him. "If I bumped into a person before I shaved off my beard and cut my hair, I'd get a dirty look. If I'm wearing a Santa suit, its "Oh, that's OK.' "

Thief loots kiddie fund

The drive to raise $1,000 by second-year journalism students will continue despite the theft of a cash collection bottle from the student lounge area of the second-floor Simcoe Building 12 days ago.

The bottle was placed there by the journalism students to collect money to buy toys for children this Christmas who may otherwise not receive any.

"The loss will not dampen the enthusiasm of the journalism sutudents as we continue to raise money through ticket sales, and our bake sale," Wayne Nicholls, project co-ordinator, said.

The prize to be offered by random draw will feature Christmas "cheer" for two. Tickets are available at the Niagara News office, S-212, or any journalism student.

Focus on Irene Jacobs

Spirited recollections of Christmases past

By NANCY ROACH
Staff Writer

People can avoid becoming wrapped up in the commercial tinsel-town Christmas of the 80s and re-capture the magic of an old-fashioned Christmas.

A young couple holding hands on a Christmas Eve stroll, as big white snowflakes fall softly, is worth more than money can buy.

With less accent on Santa, and more emphasis on family togetherness and sharing, the holidays are more special.

Money tight

Christmas was always special to Irene Jacobs because her family was all together. "There was not an awful lot of money but we made it last, we made it go."

Mrs. Jacobs, who turns 83 in January, remembers spending childhood Christmases with family, singing Christmas carols from door to door, and participating in an annual Christmas concert. "It was a nice way for the children to learn the meaning of Christmas."

The most special Christmas Mrs. Jacobs recalls was the last Christmas spent with her mother. "I was not expecting to see my mother. It was such a wonderful surprise; she was close to 98."

Mrs. Jacobs lives at Queenston terrace in St. Catharines, and alternates spending the holidays with her five children. She has four daughters and one son.

With 19 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, Mrs. Jacobs jokes that her family is responsible for the population of Fort Erie where she lived for 40 years. She worked at Irvin Airchute for 35 years making parachutes.

"They were guaranteed — every one of them — if they didn't open up, I'd give them a new one," she laughed.

Growing up in the former northern mining town of Sellwood, Mrs. Jacobs remembers the entire family going out to cut down the tree. And everyone would trim it with homemade decorations, she said.

Television has spoiled the quality of Christmas today, Mrs. Jacobs said. When she was a child there was no big advertising campaign; "Children were satisfied with little things. Mum made all our gifts."

Before the 1940s, wealthy families did not shower their children with gifts. One big gift — that one prized treasure — and a number of small items was the norm.

Today, credit cards break limits and budgets are forgotten. And it is hardly goodwill toward men when two mothers fight over the last Cabbage Patch doll. Still, companies that reap profits from toy sales figure they are just filling another demand, no different from the demand for summer clothes.

IRENE JACOBS

Children are overwhelmed today, Mrs. Jacobs said. "They get too much and lose the meaning of giving." But she feels that parents can teach their children how to capture the spirit of Christmas.

"Live a nice clean life and believe in the Lord," is Mrs. Jacobs' Christmas message.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Letter

Woeful lot

No space

Dear Editor:

As concerned parents and professionals of the college, we were dismayed at your recent front page article concerning "Parking Legally."

For several years now the staff at the Day Care Centre has had an on-going problem of parking. At the centre we work on two shifts — 8-3:45 and 9:45-5:15. The early shift worker has no problem with parking as they arrive well before anyone else. However the late shift finds no parking most of the time and usually resorts to parking as far as the Hennepin Hall area. Most of the staff has children and even those who do not, find it difficult to walk the distance — especially with the difficulties of the approaching weather, darkness and the fact that we are the last persons to leave the college at night. We often end up parking along the sides of the driveway around our centre and at a later time try to move our cars to a more appropriate and legal area.

We have politely stated our concerns and possible solutions but it seems that the only thing that remains in some people's minds is that we want preferential parking. This is not the case. We would appreciate it if our cars were not ticketed if we were to have the option of moving our cars as soon as there was a vacant spot. If this privilege was abused we could, like all mature adults, accept the consequences.

Staff
Early Childhood Education Centre

Health care

Aging 'MRs' pose challenge

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

To the people who care for them, they are "aging MR's." To most people, they are anonymous. They are the aging mentally retarded and the social service system has not prepared for them.

There are more aging retarded people in the Niagara Region than ever before and they are living longer. They face more than the usual problems of aging, but must be squeezed into social services which may not meet their special needs.

Often, there is no appropriate housing for the aging retarded. The Ministry of Health's move to put institutionalized people into communities has been more successful with the retarded than with psychiatric patients, but there is more work to be done. Doug Rapelje, director of the senior citizens department, Regional Municipality of Niagara, said.

In a paper prepared by his department for a developmentally handicapped seniors' workshop earlier this year, Mr. Rapelje said "There has been little attention given to the aged retarded and there is a need to learn more about them and their potential."

Two of the residents at Valley Park nursing home in Niagara Falls came from the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital. They were there because there was nowhere else for them to go. Now they are in the nursing home because there is no other place for them.

Eighty per cent of ARC's funding comes from the provincial government; the rest comes from donations and earnings from its businesses, such as making flowers for wedding cars, printing and stuffing envelopes.

In 1963, Ontario's special schools for the developmentally handicapped, run by the Association for the Mentally Retarded, were put under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Department of Education.

End of funds

This change meant funds were no longer provided for students over 18, although there were already many adults in facilities such as the Bellehaven School in Niagara Falls. New training facilities were developed for the retarded adult.

Retarded adults, whether at a group home, private home, or nursing home, need a day program to learn life skills and a trade, where possible, Mrs. Wilson said. ARC industries provides this training, but lacks the space, funds and staff to help everyone who needs their services.

The ARC system promotes "normalization," encouraging the retarded to become responsible and active in their community. The Newhaven centre pays its clients five cents an hour, and the 74 people in their four programs are as pleased to see pay day as any working person.

At ARC, "everything is the biggest problem," but money tops the list, Mrs. Wilson said. Eventually, an adult home for retarded seniors will be necessary as more retarded adults enter their senior years, she said.

Shirley and Lois, both in their 40s, have been friends so long no one is sure if they first met in Hamilton or the nursing home.

Lois is a high-functioning retarded adult, Anne Wilson, program manager of vocational services at the Newhaven Adult Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) in Niagara Falls, said.

Lois has some psychiatric problems, but with the proper education, could have been a "borderline" retarded person. At 25, she was put in the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital.

Shirley is on the low end of ARC industries' adaptive functioning scale, which rates a person's skill level and progress in the program, Mrs. Wilson said. If she were in a group home, more would be expected of Shirley, and her skills would develop, but at a nursing home, "everything is done for them."

All the facilities for the retarded in Niagara Falls are full and have long waiting lists, Mrs. Wilson said.

ARC Industries is under the umbrella of the Association for the Mentally Retarded. Its goals are the same as the senior citizens' department — to give people in need of their services the support they and their families need to stay independent and live fulfilling lives.

Charges 'collusion' makes plant unsafe

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

A workers' spokesman on health and safety charged that the Ministry of Labor is "in collusion" with big companies, and workers must use their own strengths and methods to defend their right to safe work environments.

Stan Gray, director of the Ontario Workers' Health Centre, told a labor relations class Dec. 4 that any gains made in recent years in employee health and safety have come about "in spite of" the labor ministry, not thanks to it.

The Workers' Health Centre was formed because workers cannot rely on government or company experts to defend their best interests, Mr. Gray said. The centre's doctors and inspectors are pro-worker instead of pro-company. The non-profit centre is supported by labor unions.

'GO SOFT' POLICY

As examples of the ministry's "go soft, see no evil in the company" policy, Mr. Gray related some of his experiences as the health and safety committee chairman at Westinghouse in Hamilton.

Westinghouse employees working together fought successful battles with the company and Ministry of Labor representatives to get a hazardous blade saw removed from one shop, lead out of the air in another, and an explosive chemical replaced with water in a third, Mr. Gray said.

"Fighting against the grain" is not easy, Mr. Gray said, but the workers did not give up, even after threats from ministry inspectors and his suspension from the company.

If the Ministry of Labor would enforce its own laws — revised in the 1979 Safety Act — workers would not have to fight these lengthy and expensive battles, Mr. Gray said. But for now, "Don't believe anything they tell you."

DANGEROUS TO TRUST

Putting trust in the government and in big companies can be hazardous to your health, Mr. Gray said. Workers at Westinghouse were falsely assured their workplace was safe, even though the level of lead in the air was 20 times the safe limit.

He said that at Westinghouse and Ferranti-Packard in St. Catharines, workers were exposed to polychlorinated biphenals (PCBs) for decades. Mr. Gray charged that even though the health centre says a number of workers' deaths can be attributed to the hazardous chemical, the Workers' Compensation Board and Ministry of Labor have not granted any claims for sickness or death from exposure.

When unions were first fighting against the hazards of asbestos, they ran up against the same attitude until the " body count" — or number of workers' deaths — was high enough to prove the deaths were related to exposure, Mr. Gray said.

Entertainment

Musicians / *Theatre*

Revolution brings changes to culture

By MONTE SONNENBERG
Staff Writer

An immediate effect of the 1979 revolution in Nicaragua was the promotion of domestic culture over American culture predominate before the civil war, Danilo Cedeno, 29, North American head of the Committee in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People (CNSP), said in an interview in Welland.

Before the revolution which overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza, native art and music of the Mesquito and Ramas Indians from the rural Atlantic regions of Nicaragua were largely unknown in the more urbanized Pacific coast areas.

The CNSP, in conjuction with the Canadian chapter of Tools for Peace, organized a Canadian tour of Nicaragua's finest folk musicians, Diego Aguirre, 26, and Mario Montenegro, 33, Mr. Cedeno said. The two, who performed at Brock University Nov. 5, were winners in the Nicaraguan Romantic National Festival; they have competed in Latin American-wide folk festivals over the last few years.

Mr. Cedeno, who was interviewed at a Andora Court residence, said Mr. Aguirre was an urban guerrilla in the 1979 revolution in which he was wounded and spent extended periods in Switzerland undergoing therapy and surgery in a successful effort to save his leg. Mr. Montenegro was an activist in the Sandinista forces who worked toward the "rescue" of native culture by reflecting the revolution and its goals in his music.

Mr. Cedeno denies that the revolution has heavily Marxist overtones.

"It is largely Sandinista (of the people), not necessarily Marxist," he said.

"It is our own revolution, not a photo-copy of any other — not the Cuban — not the Vietnamese."

He said the Sandinista revolution gained international acceptance because of the conditions bringing it about. Acceptance of this revolution and its goals was greater than the Cuban revolution bringing dicator Fidel Castro to power in 1959 because North America was more "conservative" then and "less aware" of the Cuban situation.

The cast of Old King Cole hams it up in character. Cast members are from left to right: bottom: Peter Eberhardt. First row: Chris Logan, Jim Ford, Michael Comrie, Trevor Hughes. Second row: Sherry Lee Chandler, as Princess Daphne, Judy Uwiera and Darren Levstek as Old King and Queen Cole in the gender reversal dictated by pantomime, Kristen Van Den Neucker. Top: Ruth Lawerence.

Photo By Marie Chamberland

"ON THE MOVE"
IS A PERFECT GIFT FOR ALL THE MUSIC AND JAZZ LOVERS ON YOUR LIST.
THIS IS THE DEBUT ALBUM FROM OUR
NIAGARA COLLEGE JAZZ BAND
...JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

THIS ALBUM IS ONLY $9
AND IS AVAILABLE
AT THE FASHION CLUB BOUTIQUE
AND
THE NIAGARA COLLEGE BOOKSTORE
BOTH LOCATED AT THE WELLAND CAMPUS

Old King Cole farce leaves them laughing

Leading to Christmas in the British tradition, the Niagara College Theatre Centre will present Old King Cole, from Dec. 11 to Dec. 18.

Bright costumes and props are expected to make this slapstick action play an adventure to be remembered by young and old alike. Since this production is traditionally performed at Christmas for children all over Britain, it's only fitting that this production use British as the prevailing accent, Ann Henhoeffer, student publicity assistant, said.

Ann said the play, written by Ken Campbell and directed by Lin Joyce, had students at the centre almost on the floor in laughter during the initial read-through. "The hilarity of the traps the props department has come up with is off the wall," she said.

Loosley based on the familiar nursery rhyme, and visually patterned after the Beano Comic book series, the story will follow the mishaps which occur when two silly suitors engage in a battle of wits and skills to win the hand in marriage of dippy Princess Daphne. The situation is added to when one suitor enlists the magical help of the Amazing Faz and his feeble-minded assistant Twoo.

Tickets for the matinee performances are sold out. Admission fees are: children, $2.50, students and seniors $3, adults $4. To reserve tickets for the 7 p.m. showings contact the Theatre Centre, 54 Empire St., Welland, 735-0550.

Niagara's Christmas play attracts impressive staff

The Niagara College Theatre Centre's Christmas production of Old King Cole brings with it some heavy artillery in the way of guest personnel.

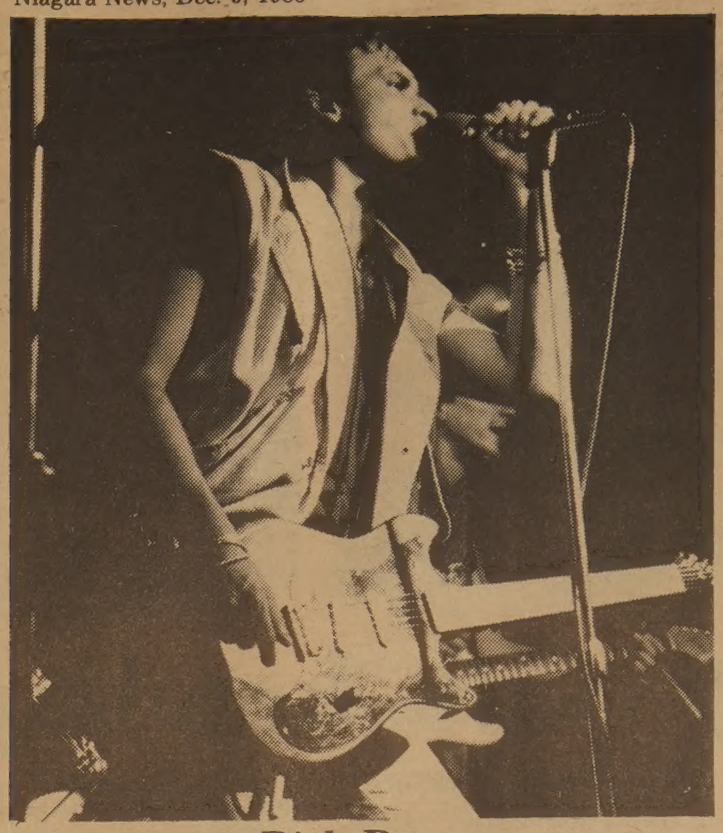
Lin Joyce will be the guest director, Jonathan Porter, guest designer, and Shirley Epp, head of props.

Ms. Joyce is directing this production, while at the same time directing a series of live variety shows in Toronto, her home base. She spent the past summer as assistant to the artistic director at the Gryphon Theatre. With a background in teaching, and as head of the technical department at the National Theatre School in Montreal, Ms. Joyce is no stranger to working with students.

Theatre Aquarius lends to Niagara Jonathan Porter as set designer. Although born in Simcoe, Mr. Porter studied at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre school in England after attending the Ontario College of Art. Since then he has designed for a long list of productions on both continents.

Shirley Epp comes fresh from the Shaw Festival Theatre, where she is head of the props department. Ms. Epp also has some experience with students, as she was a guest props instructor at the Theatre Centre in 1983-84.

Entertainment



Rick Rose

Niagara Falls band set to go for gold

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

After his band's last set in a crowded Niagara Falls bar, fans come up to Rick Rose, shake his hand and thank him for the show. A man in a suit comes over and asks for Rick's card. He is directed to the road manager.

Rick Rose, 26, is a young man taking his best shot at an industry where only three of 500 bands' audition tapes are heard by company executives. The music industry is "like gambling, a card game," he said, and Rick is one of its most assiduous players.

The six-member Rick Rose band, of Niagara Falls, is in the talking stages of a contract with several companies. In the spring, Rick is going to New York and will stay there until he has his contract.

Pays off debt

Rick stays in Niagara Falls because this is where his best friends and best fans are and he has to pay off the $8,000 debt he accumulated trying to make it big with a band called Lennex for seven years.

Home town fans are nicer to play for because they want to hear more original material and less of the John Cougar, Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams standards he has to perform on the road, Rick said. "It's bad enough I have to do Pink Cadillac."

Lennex was a good learning experience, but he would not do it again. He said he felt manipulated in the band, which won radio station Q-107's Homegrown talent contest three years ago and had two Top 30 singles. Johnny Dee, lead singer of Honeymoon Suite, was in the band.

During two years of self-assessment after Lennex, Rick's friends did not desert him. They don't care if he's in a band or not — he's still Rick from Park Street, the local hero. One friend told him, "You've got to do it. You have to make it. for us."

'Real' songs

Rick always writes at least four songs every week, even during his two years off. He writes not for the sake of writing, but to write a "real song," one with integrity. Home towns, personal integrity and holding on to dreams are common themes in his music.

Several record companies have shown an interst in the band recently, Rick said. The same people who sent him 32 rejection letters are now making positive comments about his music, raspy voice and integrity, Rick said.

Rick says this band will make it, but not all on its own. The home town fans are along for the ride. They have heard every new song, shared in each victory or disappointment and he is determined to have them with him when he makes it to the top.

Niagara student lights the lights, adds new dimension to band

By MARIE CHAMBERLAND
Staff Writer

Larry Jones

Larry Jones is a young man as succinct and straightforward as his name sounds. The 21-year-old Niagara College Theatre Centre student has determined his immediate goals, and is ready to follow them wherever they may lead.

A sampling of the foresight which Larry applies to his work was highlighted at the College Theatre Centre on Nov. 13. He designed and executed the lighting for an evening of entertainment by Dan Kozar and his band, an energetic group of local musicians who offer progressive and/or jazz fusion.

This was the third time a theatre student had done lighting work for a Kozar performance at the centre, and Larry had a strong impression of the atmosphere he wanted to achieve."I wanted to create a visual image that would enhance the music and add extra dimension to the band," he said, flashing a pair of intense brown eyes.

As lighting is a flexible medium in any production, the same set-up used for a jazz band could work for a rock band. He pointed to the timing and density of light emissions as variables which make individual designs and their display differ.

As the first few bars of music gripped the audience, so did the lighting. An icy blue flood of light transformed into a blanket of amber which weighed on the shoulders of the four musicians. As Mr. Kozar painted the music of a frenzied chase scene in a nightmare with his roland synthesizer, the light — still amber — seemed to clear around him, striking him apart from the other band members.

Timing, crispness, and mutedness of the lights complemented tranquilities and urgencies as they arose throughout the music.

Larry came to the Theatre Centre in 1982, from Dartmouth, N.S. He chose Niagara because he preferred its hand-on training to the more academically oriented program at Dalhousie University. His original interest was acting, but he wanted to have some technical background as well.

After a year off for some finance-raising, and telephone conversation with Doug Rathbun, Theatre Centre technical director. he returned to Niagara to complete his second year in 1984. Deciding he couldn't tolerate auditions for acting jobs, he chose to focus on lighting, which he finds just as rewarding.

To support himself for the remainder of this schooling, Larry was able to rely upon the entrepreneurial spirit which likely brought him so far from home in the first place. He spent the summer running a successful photography business, in which he provided same day service for the portfolios of exotic dancers.

Food for thought

A new history elective sure to satisfy an appetite for knowledge is to be offered in January.

The History of Food and Beverage from pre-historic times to present day will be offered by Brian Keppy, social sciences instructor, and Craig McKay, communications instructor, as a regular college elective or a night course.

There is not a food and beverage course that focuses specifically on the history of food and Mr. McKay and Mr. Keppy feel it is a neccessary part of education, especially if a career is related in some way to food/and or beverage.

"It's a matter of education like anything else," Mr. Keppy said.

The course will be divided into two sections; the first part will be a six-week section and mainly audio visual displays. Part two will deal with beverages such as wines, spirits, liqueures, coffee, tea and just anything you can imagine."

"One of the things we are going to be doing is wine tasting,"Mr. Keppy said.

Mr. Keppy hopes the course will become a permanent elective and would like to set up a European tour for next year.

Price challenge

The new, definitive dictionary board game, Word Challenge, is now available in stores throughout the peninsula for $29.95 each. The figure stated in the previous story on Word Challenge Nov. 11 represented the cost to produce each of the first 1,024 games.

Word Challenge can be purchased at Beatties, Collacutt's, Rahams, Forget Me Not, Luder's Drugs, Owl and the Pussycat and Grimsby Hobbies and Crafts.

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Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

MARK PANE

HANNAH JENKIN

DIANA MEDARIC

CHANTALLE NORTON

DANIELLE DUMONTELLE

FILIPPO RASO

SCOTT SMITH

PHILIP MCPARLAND

LESLEY BOURQUE

JULIE JOCSAK

LORI DUDAS

Stuff turkey with ketchup, sponge, Grade 2 chefs say

The creative juices of some of Welland's finest chefs were tapped to come up with the following recipes for Christmas turkey. By the way, all of the chefs just happen to be Grade 2 students at the city's Holy Name elementary school, and their well guarded recipes appear here with special permission — verbatim.

Contributing kitchen masters were: Willie Beres, Lesley Bourque, Tina Bruni, Daniela Cescon, Frank Deluca, Lucy D'Onofrio, Lori Dudas, Danielle Dumontelle, Erin Durant, Bobby Goodall, Adrian Guite, Tanner Harpwood, Hannah Jenkins, Julie Jocsak, Christina Kay, Roseanne Krol, Maria LaScala, Diana Medaric, Philip McParland, Angela Miller, Jimmy Morgetano, Todd Niejadlik, Chantalle Norton, Mark Pane, Tyler Paroshy, Emilio Presti, Dana Pupo, Filippo Raso, Janette Roy, Andy Skinn, Scott Smith, Dino Tomaso, Elizabeth Willick, and Mark Colitti.

Lesley Bourque: First I stuff the Christmas turkey. Then I cook it. Then I set it up on the table. Then I would decorate it. I cook it for five minutes. When I stuffed it I stuffed it with apple sauce. It was good. The end.

Lori Dudas: Before Christmas I will go to the store to buy a turkey. I will first stuff the turkey with stuffing. Then I will take everything apart. I will put the turkey in the oven. When I'm done taking it apart, I would cook it for an hour. Then I would eat it with my family.

Diana Medaric: I went to the store to buy a turkey. I came home to cook it. I covered it with oil before I washed it with water. Then I put gravy on it. Then I put it in the oven. I check on it, then I take it out of the oven. I set the table when I ate. It smelled good to eat.

Chantalle Norton: First I would buy the turkey at the store. You wash the turkey off. Then you stuff it with vegetables and other things. Then you put it in the oven. You cook the turkey for ten hours. Then you take the turkey out of the oven. You decorate the turkey with things. I like Christmas day.

Mark Pane: I like to eat turkey on Christmas. I like to help my mother cook the turkey because it is fun to help my mother cook the turkey. You have to put the turkey in the oven. After the turkey is done you take the turkey out of the oven. The timer will go off. Then the good part comes. You get to eat it.

Scott Smith: On Christmas I would tell my mom to drive me to the store. I would cook the turkey for 35 minutes. Then I would stuff it with ketchup. I would eat it. I think it would taste good.

Hannah Jenkins: First you would buy it at the store. Next I would make a hole in it. Then I would stuff it with vegetables. Next I would set the table. I would come upstairs and get mom and Dad. Then I would eat it. I liked it.

Filippo Raso: I like Christmas because it is fun to play in the snow. I like to eat the inside and the outside. It is good. Christmas is fun. You always buy a turkey and it makes you strong. I want some more turkey now please mom.

Daniela Cescon: Pretty soon it will be Christmas and we have to buy a Christmas turkey. You have to stuff it with stuffing. I stuff it with bread crumbs. It has a hole in the middle. I would cook it 30 minutes. Then I would put it on the table. And then we ate it all up.

Philip McParland: Christmas is near and lots of people are geting ready. Sum people have ther turkey. Some people have ther turkey stuffed. and some people do not. my mom is puting her turkey in the microwave four a couple of hours. my brother and I say are we supposed to eat this? four a joke philip is the turkey. I couldn't stop from eating.

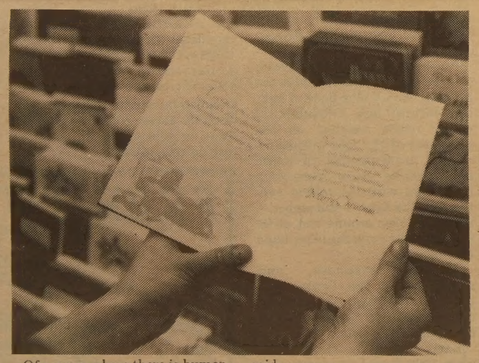
Tyler Paroshy: I would buy the turkey first. Then I would wash the turkey. Then I would make a hole. After that I would stuff the turkey. Then I would put deviled eggs on it. I would put it in the stove for one hour. After that take it out and enjoy the meal.

Julie Jocsak: I went to the store and I bought a Christmas turkey. Then I went home and there was a hole. I stuffed it with sponge. Then I put the turkey in the oven and my mother cooked the turkey for six minutes. Then we took it out of the oven and it was ready to eat. When we were finished we had treats.

TYLER PAROSHY

Humorous contemporary cards make off-beat holiday greetings

For Christmas, I crossed a
reindeer with a partridge, and
do you know what I got?
Neither do I
but there's an unbelievable
mess
under my pear tree.



Henny Youngman? Yes. Christmas? Maybe.

Contemporary cards, the ones with jokes and funny cartoons, have come far beyond the fad stage and are an expected feature of birthdays, mother's day and Christmas. While they may not be the biggest seller of the season, contemporary cards are the Yuletide ticket for some gift givers.

"They do OK but I don't think they outsell the serious cards," Debi Robins of Granny's Cabinet, a small gift shop in Seaway Mall, said.

Contemporary cards peek out from special Christmas display shelves at cigar stores and gift shops everywhere. Humor of all shapes, sizes, colors and styles is waiting for anyone willing to pay 50 cents to $5 to tickle the funny bone of their fancy.

Of course, where there is humor, there is always the chance of offending. Contemporary birthday cards can stretch the limits of a recipient's sense of humor, but Christmas cards are generally considered to be within the boundaries of good taste.

"We have divorce cards, risque cards, but for Christmas, we stay away from that," Mrs. Robins said.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Have you been
a good girl all year?
No? Well climb up on Santa's
lap and tell him all about it!

Funny? Maybe. Christmas? It is to some. One person's sick joke could be another's holiday greeting.

Mrs. Rogers' Grade 2 class at Holy Name Separate School, Welland

More to holiday than eggnog

A gentle snow falls covering the ground with a fresh blanket of white while family and friends gather inside near a warm crackling fireplace sipping egg nog and swapping stories of Christmases past.

Christmas is a time for celebration with family and friends, but celebrations vary from culture to culture.

The gathering of friends and relatives on Christmas Eve to enjoy a special midnight meal of cooked cabbage mixed with pork meat and poppy seed and honey stuffed in doe is the way Caroline Stajfer, a Yugoslavian bilingual secretary student, spends her Christmas.

"There is a lot of baking and gift-giving," Caroline said. "Everyone meets at the grandparents' house to visit, eat and drink. The grandparents bring out home-made wine, but only on Christmas Eve."

Ralph Sasso, an Italian business administration student specializing in industrial manage ment, has a big family dinner with all his relatives on Christmas Day.

"We have turkey, vegetables and a lot of liquor," Ralph said.

"Turkey, pies, mashed potatoes, wine and beer," is the way Jack Jacobs, a North American Indian electronics student, spends his holidays.

"It is a big family affair and quite a sociable type of gathering," Jack said.

Whatever the traditional customs may be, all share the joy that Christmas brings.

Diamonds hot gift item this holiday season

By AUDREY BARRICK
Staff Writer

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend but gold and pearls get a piece of the action too this Christmas. Jewelry is once again a popular gift no matter what the shopper's budget.

For young romances that blossom in the spring, Christmas is the perfect time to make a commitment to the one you love, and a diamond engagement ring is the best way.

Gina Traver, a sales clerk at Mappins Jewelers in the Seaway Mall, said people are looking to the different cuts of diamonds instead of the traditional. Marque, pear and squared cuts are appealing styles for those who want to be different. Matching wedding bands are also popular now, she said.

The anniversary ring is popular for couples. They range from three diamonds to diamonds all around the band, sometimes set with a precious stone like a sapphire.

Opals are still popular for rings, earrings and necklaces but they are soft porous and can easily fall out of their setting if exposed to harsh detergents. Gina recommended putting a little vegetable oil on the opal to help perserve it.

Gina warned never to clean jewelry with toothpaste because it will scratch. Either use jewelry cleaner or take it to a jeweler who will clean it.

Gold charms are popular at Mappins, Gina said. The newest thing is a charm holder which is a charm with a hoop on it that other charms can be added.

The newest craze in jewelry is tri color gold which is making a big fashion statement in Toronto. Gina said this gold is expensive because alloys have to be added to the gold to get yellow, pink and white, the three colors used in the jewelry. It is available in necklaces, earrings, charms and bracelets.

Pearls are coming back strong, Gina said. Freshwater pearls are elongated, resembling rice, and come in a variety of sizes. The pearl can also be colored white pink and grey.

Watches in anything from gold and diamonds to plastic are available and a good seller. Gina said quartz movement watches are the most accurate but are more expensive.

For those with less to spend, costume jewelry is going well. The versatility and color of the fashion jewelry are "just to have fun with."

Move over Cabbage Patch

Wrestler dolls, robots the rage

By MICHELLE MUYLAERT
Staff Writer

With toy store shelves overflowing with everything from bicycles to robots, it is difficult to choose a gift for the child on your list.

Wrestling action figures, transformers, Wrinkles puppets, Omnibots, and talking teddy bears are all the rage this season according to Janice Condello, Toy City manager.

This year the wrestling action figures are the closest rival to the Cabbage Patch craze of last year.

"We get millions and millions of calls about them every day," Ms. Condello said.

The 20-centimetre figures, depicting characters made popular by television's Wide World of Wrestling, include Big John Studd, Iron Sheik, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and Andre the Giant.

And what of its predecessor, the homely orphans that had passive mothers turning to toy store madwomen last year?

"The Cabbage Patch dolls are still popular but to a much lower extent," Ms. Condello said.

Coleco's new addition, the Cabbage Patch twins, "preemies" and the International Traveller, featuring the famous dolls clutching passports and dressed in full costume of a particular country, are popular now.

Toys in disguise

Transformers and Gobots, other hits from last year's Christmas season, are still a popular pick. Cars that transform into robots and dollhouses that turn into jewelery boxes may confuse parents but will delight children.

Wrinkles, soft and lovable Canadian-designed hand puppets, have won the hearts of children and the Canadian Toy Testing Council alike. It was named Toy of the Year for its wide-spread appeal to people of every age.

My Buddy, a lifesize doll for boys, is Hasbro's attempt to reverse stereotypical toys between the sexes. But it may encounter some difficulties.

"A lot of parents are still afraid to buy their boys a doll," Ms. Condello said.

For the child who has everything, a remote control Omnibot might be just right. The miniature R2D2 moves and carries objects, is equipped with a built in alarm clock and an onboard tape unit and can program functions up to a week in advance. It's yours for only $250.

LITTLE PONY

HUGGABLE TEDDY

Talking Teddies

The World of Wonder's Teddy Ruxpin and Axlon's A.G. Bear combine traditional teddy bears with a high-tech twist.

The plush Teddy Ruxpin bear "reads" stories and sings songs with synchronized eye and lip movements. The trick is to insert one of the 13 available cassettes to a tape player inside the bear. It cost about $100.

A.G. Bear has a computer-chip heart making it capable of responding to its owners words in "bear talk." It costs about $60.

Other popular picks this Christmas include Heart Family Dolls, My Little Pony, Pound Puppies, Rainbow Bright dolls, Snugglebums, Real Babies, Wuzzles and the musical Glow Worm.

Unseasoned toy shoppers may well find themselves intimidated — lost among a virtual goldmine of dolls that dance, skate and swim, cars that turn to robots, robots that turn to cars and teddy bears that talk back.

Support the Santa Fund

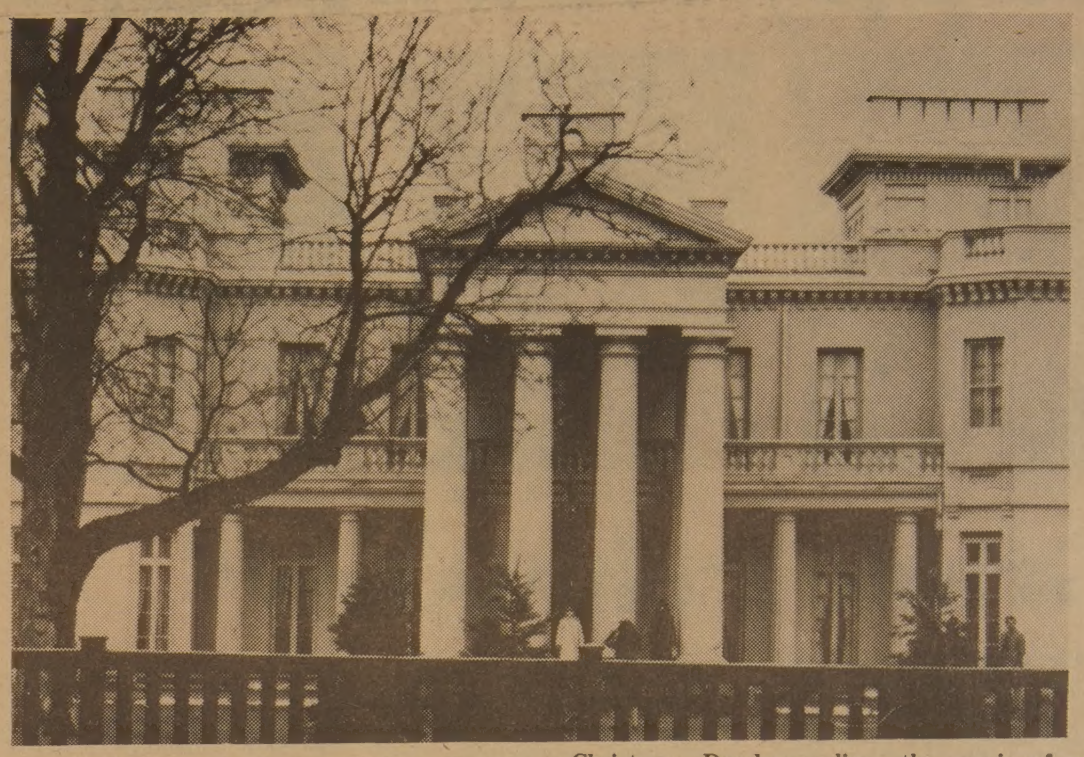
Victorian homes recall visions of Christmas past

By MICHELLE MUYLAERT
Staff Writer

Peering into the lavishly decorated homes a century and a half old, one gets a feeling for a Christmas long past.

The majestic corridors, decorated with garlands, evergreen wreathes and fresh sprigs of holly conjure up images of a Victorian Christmas: a little girl lovingly cradling a new porcelain doll, her brother zooming about the playroom with a new toy train, the family bedecked in holiday finery sitting down to a Christmas feast, and weary servants huddled in their downstairs quarters far removed from the merriment.

Whitehern and Dundurn Castle, two of Hamilton's most stately homes built around the mid 1800s, preserve a simpler time, when Christmas was a religious event, not a commercial one.



Majestic Dundurn Castle beautifully reflects Hamilton's history. Built between 1832 and 1835, it was the home of Sir Allan McNab, then Prime Minister of Canada's upper and lower provinces. Decorated in the spirit of a traditional Victorian Christmas, Dundurn relives the magic of a Christmas long past. The natural hand-made decorations that adorn the castle reveal the simplicity of the time. Guided tours through Dundurn Castle are available several times daily.
Photo by Michelle Muylaert

Whitehern

Whitehern, the home of the prosperous McQuesten family for three generations, relfects a turn-of-the-century Christmas

The essence of Christmas for the McQuestens was celebrating together at their beloved Whitehern.

"I got so excited as ever when I think of Christmas coming and you coming home, hurrah! Won't it be jolly."

This quote taken from a letter by Ruby McQuesten to her brother Calvin, written between 1900 and 1910, beautifully reflects the family's feeling at Christmas time. This strong sense of family was reinforced by their strong Presbyterian beliefs.

At the turn of the century, the Presbyterian Church celebrated Christmas on the Sunday preceding Dec. 25. The church was not decorated as decorations and Christmas trees were not considered to be based upon religious beliefs.

The church did not, however, discourage the giving of gifts and the family thoroughly enjoyed the selection and preparation of gift giving.

The boys received guns, boats and locomotives. Girls were likely to get porcelain dolls dressed in silky finery, china tea sets and miniature sad irons.

"Many were educational toys," Diane Collins, Whitehern tour guide, said. "They were miniatures of what their parents would have."

Wool stockings hung carefully from the fireplace were stuffed with raisins, oranges, apples, candy canes and animals, delicious Christmas treats.

Christmas was a little more elaborate at Dundurn Castle, the home of Sir Allan McNab, Prime Minister of the upper and lower provinces from 1854 to 1856.

Christmas was also recognized as a religious holiday by the McNab family and celebrations did not begin until after Christmas and into the new year.

Several Christmas trees adorned the house trimmed with hand-made decorations. Paper cornucopias filled to overflowing with tiny gifts, shimmering ribbons and wintry designs cut from felt brought the trees to life. Apples and berries were added for a little bit of color.

Ingenious

"In designing the gifts the family became quite ingenious," a Dundurn tour guide said.

Christmas was a special time for all children in the Victorian age but especially for those of the prominant and wealthy. Gifts of tea sets, dolls, wooden puppets on strings, paints, books and candy, were lavished upon them.

Christmas was the only time children were allowed in the formal dining room. The family would gorge on a six to eight-course feast with a separate wine for each. The menu would include beef, chicken and pork dishes topped off with mince meat tarts, shortbread cookies and candies.

This was the life of the upper crust but by no means was it typical of the day. The "holidays" for the working class, even under the same roof, were very different.

The McNab servants would spend weeks preparing wines and baked goods for the Christmas feast. A special pudding was made on Advent Sunday. Everyone, including the McNabs would stir the pudding for one turn in a clockwise direction and make a wish. It was thought bad luck not to take a turn.

Christmas morning McNab and his family would come downstairs bearing gifts for the servants, usually a dress-length of material for the women and tobacco for the men. Following this, social inequalities were forgotten and masters and servants would go to church together. This is the only time the elite would have any social contact with their servants.

Gathered

Later, in the bowels of the castle, weary servants, often separated from their families, would gather at a small wooden table and eat their dinner.

When the magic of Christmas is sometimes lost in this age of technology, it is good to have these poignant reminders of a simpler time, of an age that has vanished forever.

Develop teaching skills

A new college policy concerned with new faculty members teaching at the college for the first time will see the initiation of a four-part professional development program — perhaps by next September.

Ed Wilson, general college teacher, and Mary Sirotnik, co-ordinator of nursing, attended a two-day DACUM (developing a curriculum) session in early November to establish some objectives and identify competencies new teachers should have.

Under the direction of their presidents, the six western region colleges of Ontario, (Conestoga, Fanshawe, Lambton, Mohawk, Niagara and St. Clair) have joined together to provide the Orientation to College Teaching program to their new faculty.

Orientation

"One thing we are concentrating on is the orientation of new staff," Mr. Wilson said.

Mr. Wilson said teachers come to the college from various backgrounds and do not necessarily have the essential teaching skills; this program focuses on the development of these skills.

"I think all the colleges recognize a need for professional development" but "the western region seems to be out in front of others as far as teacher training" is concerned because they have really worked at it, he said.

Each new member will go through an orientation program consisting of four parts: pre-service teacher training, teaching effectively, pre-service orientation follow-up and program evaluation and participant certification.

Competency

Niagara is involved in part two of the program right now which is a competency-based learning program for new and interested faculty.

"What we are trying to do is attempt to come to grips with this teaching effectively program," Mr. Wilson said.

He hopes the program at Niagara will be in place for next September. Though it is particularly for new teachers, he feels it may interest established teachers as well.

Sharp eye for value makes gift buying a snap

By ELLEN RODGER
Staff Writer

Christmas shoppers looking for that special something for that special person need not revert to the old socks, underwear and wool sweater routine.

Unusual and interesting gifts can be found in many gift and department stores. All it takes is a little time and imagination to add a personal touch.

Homemade gifts are unique and personalized. Church bazaars and charity auctions provide many one-of-a-kind buys that are not sold in stores. Along with hand knit and sewn articles, shoppers can mull over handcrafted wooden doll and bird feeders.

"People are going for more personalized, unique gifts," Heather Serafina, a salesperson at the Panhandler store in the Seaway Mall, said. "You wouldn't expect to get a telephone in the shape of a banana, but they're selling well." Scented clothes hangers, perfume atomizers and crystal figurines are also selling well. Mrs Serafina said, a lot of people are giving mugs and gourment coffee.

Big items are christmas stir sticks, dolls and stuffed animals. "We've sold a lot of plush toys and animals already," Debi Robins, manager of Granny's Cabinet in the Seaway Mall, said.

The Christmas shopping season is keeping merchants and sales people busy. Gift stores catch most of the overflow of last minute gift-givers. Marlene Baiton, a salesperson at Granny's Cabinet gift shop, straightens some Christmas ornaments and knick-knacks.

Photo by Ellen Rodger

SPECIAL BASKETS

A good way to please almost anyone on the Christmas list is to have a specially made Christmas basket. Delicatessens, gift shops, and even grocery stores can make up gift baskets to order. Ready made baskets can also be bought off the shelf. Baskets include anything from crackers and cheese, pate and chocolates, to wine, Christmas cake and teddy bears.

Teddy bears, always a popualar item, are out in full force this christmas. Bookstores are selling Teddy bear books, with such bearish titles as Bears In the Kitchen and the Complete Teddy Bear Book.

The Brinkly bunch, a family of career-oriented teddies is doing well, Jean Horne, a salesperson at the Curio Shoppe, said. The bears are clad in surgeon and nurse and "gingham prairie" attire. Bear paraphernalia is everywhere, in coloring books, coffee mugs, bowls, and cards.

Dolls for collecting are also in full display. Antique dolls make good gifts for both adults and children. "You can buy a different doll for someone each year, that's how a collection might start," Mrs. Serafina said.

Tolpatsch, a slightly more expensive addition to the cabbage patch lookalike craze, is a large vinyl, washable collector doll. The "baby suit" is a doll enclosed in its own suit case. The little darling comes complete with a change of clothes and sells for about $30.

Pets for Christmas, think before you buy

Kittens and puppies may seem like irresistible gifts at Christmas, but both pet and owner may suffer for it later if the purchase is not considered carefully.

Animals are "living, breathing beings just like the rest of us," Doug Green, manager of the Niagara Falls Humane Society, said. Pets are part of the family and much thought should be given before a pet is taken home.

Christmas is hard on pet, especially newly adopted ones. Decorations make tempting playthings for pets, who can injure themselves and frustrate owners. Loneliness, a problem for many pets, is even worse at Christmas, when the pet can be forgotten or trampled on in all the excitement, Mr. Green said.

CONSIDER

The Human Society urges potential pet owners or gift-givers to consider the time and money a pet will need before bailing the animal out of a shelter. That adorable puppy could become an expensive nuisance in a few months, Mr. Green said.

Last spring, the society was suspicious that a couple of animals brought in had been cute Christmas gifts a few months before.

While kittens and puppies are most easily adopted out, an adult animal is probably a safer idea, Mr. Green said. The pet's temperament is set and there will be no surprises about its size later. Adult pets at the shelter are usually sprayed or neutered.

Arrangements can be made to hold an animal for adoption once the bustle ofthe season is over and a sober decison made, Mr. Green said. The society encourages this system, since it is easier on both pet and owner.

Last year, the society destroyed 500 unwanted dogs and 900 to 1,000 cats and kittens at its Chippawa Parkway facility.

Farm management adds computer skills

Niagara College in co-operation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Canada Employment and Immigration will offer four continuing education courses on farm management techniques beginning in January.

Two will be offered at Welland Welland Vale campuses; the others will be at various locations in Vineland Station, Wellandport and Vineland.

The courses are of no cost to the participant as Canada Employment and the ministry will take care of the fees. The two computer courses, however, do require a $10 diskette deposit.

The courses at Welland campus on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Welland Vale on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. are: Farm Management with a Microcomputer and Farming Advanced Computer Skills.

They will introduce the use of a microcomputer for farm management and further enhance basic skills.

Designed for fruit, vegetable and greenhouse growers, Farm Management Practices on your Farm offered at The Christian Reformed Church in Welland and the Assembly Hall in Vineland Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. will give information on farm management

Centre seeks manager

Niagara College is looking for a manager for a new innovation centre to be located at one of the college campuses.

The innovation centre will be a place where student entrepreneurs and those in small business can gain advice, business education, updating and marketing assistance. The centre will be run by soon-to-be-named board of directors and will be open to the public April 15.

The centres, of which there are 20 across the province, were the creation of the provincial Conservative government. Andy Brandt, former minister of industry and trade, gave Niagara College a $300,000 grant on behalf of the government, to create and develop a centre as part of the Tories' Enterprise Ontario program.

The grant is to be provided at $100,000 per year for three years, and it is to be matched dollar for dollar by the college.

Location for the centre is not definite, though a proposal passed by the Board of Governors last month says it will be at an existing Niagara College centre, and Hans van der Slagt, dean of business, said he was "pretty sure it is going to be at the Welland campus."

The innovation centre proposal says the manager will be responsible to the board of directors for day-to-day operations and handle duties such as selecting the appropriate staff and projects to meet private sector demand. The manager is scheduled to be named Jan 1.

ON BOARD

The board of directors, though not yet selected, will include Jacqueline Robarts, college president, two senior college officials, and two members representing the private business sector. This meets government demand for a board percentage of 40 per cent from the private sector.

Mr. van der Slagt said the board will work with an advisory committee, of which all voting members will be from the private sector.

Fees for the centre's services have not been released. Mr. van der Slagt said they will be adjusted to fit the customer's needs. "For a student starting out with no capital dollar, we might waive the fee, but for an established business we would charge the full going rate."

The centre is to be complete and staffed by Feb. 28. There will be a brief testing and business contact period before the official April opening.

And away she goes

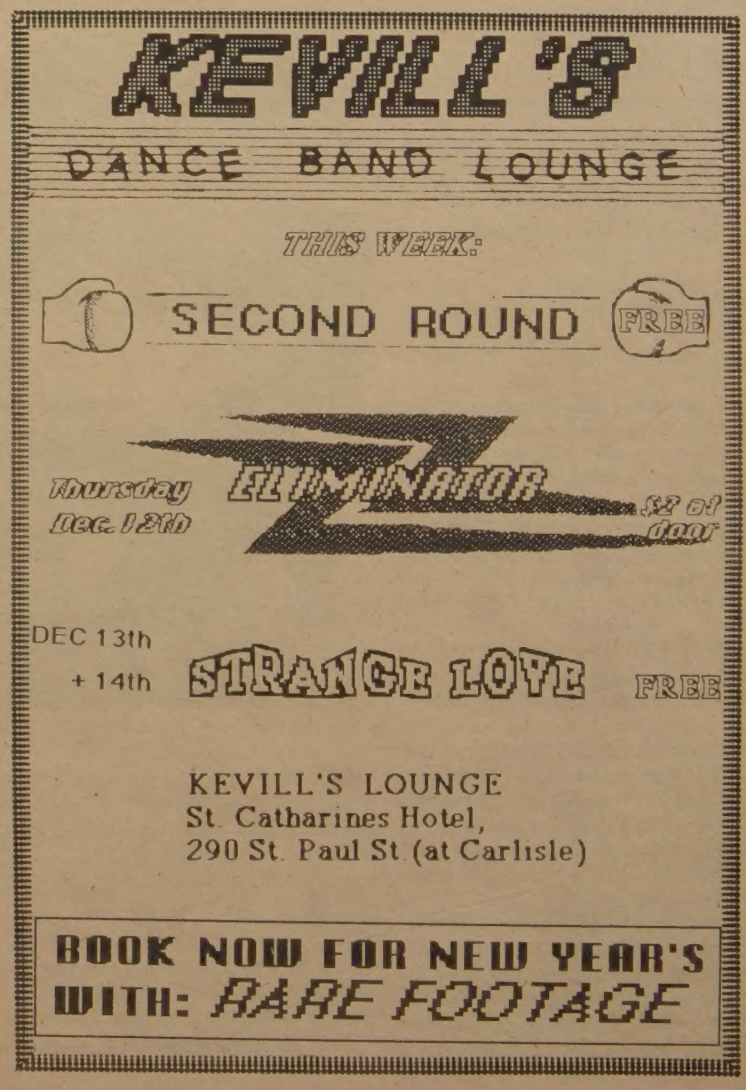
Chantal Roy is a Niagara tourism student who is really "on the go." Miss Roy, 20, got back from a nine-day stint as a tour escort in Germany in time to travel to Venezuela as a tourist on a class trip.

Miss Roy, a second year bilingual tourism student, was hired by Dimensional Travel Inc. of Toronto, to escort an insurance company incentive tour to Cologne, West Germany.

Miss Roy made sure nothing went wrong for the 80-member French-speaking group from Colonia Insurance. She acted as interpreter, guide and all-around gogetter for the duration of the trip.

The tour was her first visit to Europe. She escorted the Colonia group to a castle, vineyards and on a cruise on the Rhine river. "The castle tour was fantastic; there was so much history," she said.

The Cologne trip won't be her last tour for the Toronto travel company. In January, she will spend her co-op term at Dimensional Travel. In April she will jet off again, to Acapulco with a Kinney Shoes company incentive tour.



A customer browses through designer Christmas trees and wreaths with bright red ribbons searching for ideas to decorate her home for Christmas at Creations by Helen in St. Catharines where decorating is made easy.

Creations by Helen for Christmas color

By HEATHER JARDEN
Staff Writer

It is not Christmas until you visit Creations by Helen in St. Catharines. That is what Casey Rietveld's customers keep saying each year.

"We are setting the pace for other shops," Mr. Rietveld said. At the shop,one year is spent buying and planning for the Christmas season.

"It takes so many different suppliers," he said. "It took 10 different suppliers just to put one Christmas tree theme together." He will come very close to selling out.

Simplicity is the key to decorating which can be very inexpensive, he said. A little red bow with a few garlands of greenery along a fireplace or around a mirror can bring a little Christmas sparkle to any home.

A lot of designing is done at Creations by Helen. Mr. Rietveld is the business administrator and set-up person while his wife, Helen, is the designer. She plans the way each tree will be decorated. The materials used are made available to customers and they will copy ideas they see in the store.

"Shoppers should look first towards using things they might have at home," Mr. Rietveld said. Some spend a long time just looking around the store and trying to absorb everything.

Christmas decorating is made easy at Creations by Helen and the results, as seen throughout the store, are simply breathtaking.

"A Christmas wreath says 'Welcome' to people," Mr. Rietveld said. "It says 'Hello.' "

Fashion replicas cost less

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

Christmas is the season to be jolly, and the season to be seen, but it doesn't have to cost a fortune to look good.

Students can be seen this year in the same elegant, glittery high-fashion look of a $500 outfit for just $85 to $150, Marie Lynch, fashion arts co-ordinator, said. All it takes is "a good eye," and knowing what to look for.

Color, fabric and line are the points to watch, Ms. Lynch said. Black, silver, gold lame and jewel colors, such as emerald and ruby, on elegant fabrics of velvet, silk and taffeta, are the season's best bet.

By watching high-priced stores, students can find the look they want, then buy cheaper copies of the same items in another store, Ms. Lynch said. Waiting for sales mid-season is another alternative.

SEQUINS SPECIAL

For very limited budgets, it is easy to take a "little black dress" and update it for the season, Ms. Lynch said. Look for a "wonderful jacket," especially one with sequins, then hunt down big, clunky accessories.

Egyptian-look jewelry will be in fashion this Christmas. Copies of the best in clunky jewelry are available in the Fashion Club Boutique, Ms. Lynch said.

Silver and gold shoes are coming back this season to complement the definitive elegance of black. Stilettos are best for late evening, but manufacturers have given in to consumer demand and now produce more comfortable, yet fashionable, sling-backs, Ms. Lynch said.

Makeup should be strong, but not gaudy, for Christmas partiers, Ms. Lynch said. In keeping with the 50s' influence, deep red lipstick should be popular. Sleek, controlled hair styles will complete the look.

College Ski Club ready for mogul bashing, good times

Fresh mountain air, mogul bashing, and good times await the Niagara College ski club should Old Man Winter co-operate this year.

Founded last month, the club has attracted 80 members, Kathleen Harvey, club president, said. Two or three parties per month are planned, along with junkets to Blue Mountain.

Kissing Bridge, and Collingwood. Buses will be rented should numbers warrant it.

Interest in the ski club has been greater than expected. SAC has so far given $180 to the club. The executive would like to see a greater interest from women, who are outnumbered by men five to one.

Club memberships cost $30.

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At Hennepin Gallery

'Peninsula Seven' on display

By ELLEN RODGER
Staff Writer

Hennepin Art Gallery is displaying the works of two members of Niagara's "Peninsula Seven."

Stoneware goblets, jewelry and bowls, the work of potter Helen Palmer, are featured alongside the woven tapestries, silk scarves and blankets of weaver and textile artist Liisa Harju. Both artisans belong to a group of seven peninsula artists who work in different mediums and display their works in local galleries.

Mrs. Palmer's interest in pottery has escalated from a hobby to a way of life. She began pottery by taking a ceramics class at Mohawk College in Hamilton, and has since shown her works in several local galleries. "Pottery takes a lot of patience, work and skill, you wouldn't do it if you didn't love it," she said. She designs her pottery at her home studio in Wainfleet, working by hand and by wheel. Her works are hand-dipped in glaze and fired in either a gas or an electric kiln, intricate designs are also applied by hand.

Sam Rotunda at Hennepin Gallery.

Photo by Ellen Rodger

Mrs. Harju considers herself more of a visual artist than anything else. The exhibition is a culmination of four months of work in Finland and a display of her skills in weaving natural fibres.

Mrs. Harju went back to her hometown of Kiika, Finland, to work on the looms at the "community weaving centre."

A small woven tapestry takes about four of five hours of patient weaving, Mrs. Harju, said. "The first one takes two weeks." She likes to work as much as she can in natural fibres. "Natural fibres are very pricy, but they are very beautiful, especially in North America, where it is a very synthetic plastic society," she said.

The work of both artisans will be on display until Dec. 21.

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Shelter last hope for boys in trouble

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

The Liberal Catholic Church of Niagara takes its commitment to feed the hungry, visit the sick and shelter the homeless, seriously.

Sometimes called the Catholic branch of the Salvation Army, last year the church asked the social planning council how it could best serve its community, Rev. Donald Mullan, dean of Niagara, said.

At the council's suggestion, the church bought the old Holy Family School and converted it to a shelter for homeless boys aged 16 to 21. The Palmer Avenue building also holds a church and community centre.

The centre celebrated its first anniversary Dec. 8. Another emerging boys' shelter is planned for the Fort Erie Liberal Catholic Church.

This year, boys at the shelter will share Christmas with families from the congregation. Last year, a family brought Christmas dinner in to the residents.

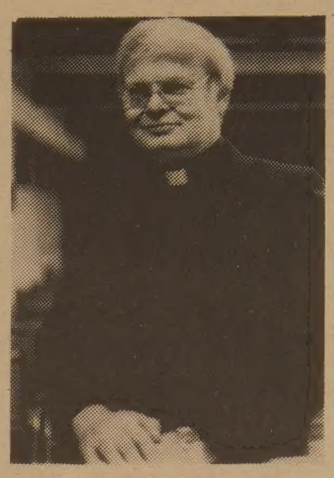
The emergency shelter was built to accommodate 12 young men, but has housed up to 15 at one time. Some of the boys have been kicked out at home, run away, or been in trouble with the police. Some have prostitued themselves to make money. Most have little education, but they come from many backgrounds, Mr. Mullan said.

Mr. Mullan said the shelter is there to "help kids who can't be helped anywhere else." Some of the boys will never be productive, law-abiding members of society, but they are all given a chance at the shelter, he said.

The centre's success comes from the collective efforts of many groups of individuals, Mr.Mullan said. Both the Knights of Columbus and the Royal Orange Lodge contribute funds to keep the shelter going.

The city of Niagara Falls contributed $20,000 towards this year's budget, but the bulk — 75 per cent — of the funding comes from the church itself and its 85-member Palmer Avenue congregation, Mr. Mullan said.

The centre, which is always open, offers counselling to its residents. They are encouraged to get a job or go back to school. Going back to the family home is always the goal, but is seldom achieved, Mr. Mullan said. Residents get legal counselling and "domestic training" such as managing a budget, cooking meals and housekeeping.



REV. DONALD MULLAN

The shelter is worth providing as a last resort for troubled kids, Mr. Mullan said. One boy who had been shuttled from foster home to foster home, and was notorious for wanting to leave wherever he was, told the social worker that he didn't want to leave. It was the first time he had not asked to be taken out of a facility, Mr. Mullan said.

Education prime goal

Students should be more aware of alcohol abuse and the hazards of drinking and driving.

This was the theme of Alcohol Awareness Week sponsored by the Student Adminstrative Council last month.

"Since students are constantly exposed to alcohol in a variety of settings, I feel it is the responsibilty of an aware student government to offer various programs such as the designated driver program," Ken Winer, vice-president of internal affairs, said.

The designated driver program will operate at all pubs at the college and the Aquaduck. In this program tavern owners provide non-alcoholic beverages to car drivers who then take friends home safely after the night of drinking.

Ken said the goals of the program are to encourage students not drink and drive; educateabout the hidden dangers of alcohol abuse; nake noit drinking socially acceptable; and illustrate the results of one mistake.

"Drunk drivers fall into basically two categories - those who seldom drink and drive but make one mistake, and those who are perpetual offenders.

"SAC hopes to reduce the number of students who fall into these categories and perhaps save a life along the way."

Student gets jail sentence

A former student of Loyalist College was sentenced to 30 days in custody and barred from receiving any further financial assistance for offences he committed against the Ontario Student Assistance Program, an Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities handout said.

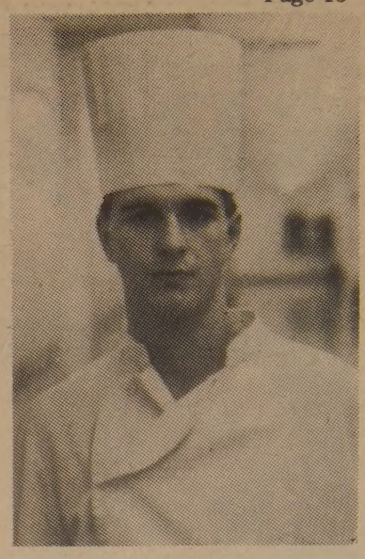
William Vincent Cournoyea pleaded guilty to four counts of false pretences over $200 before Picton County Court Judge R.C. Honey Nov. 4.

William applied for assistance to attend Loyalist College during the 1983-84 academic year.He accepted three Ontario Study Grant cheques and negotiated his Canada and Ontario Student Loans but attended no classes.

Big pay day for Rina

Rina Armbrust, a second-year sales and merchandising student, accepts the 1985 Woolco-Woolworth Award from Hans van der Slagt, dean of the school of business. Congratulating Rina at left is Larry Cote, co-ordinator of sales and merchandising. The award is a $750 cheque presented to the student with an outstanding performance during co-op work week.

Photo by Sean Condon



TOM CAWOOD

Great gifts handmade by student

By STEVE FORBES
Staff Writer

Crowded shopping malls filled with people shoving and yelling, looking for the last article on sale can turn the cheeriest Christmas shopper into a grumbling grinch, especially when shopping for that ungrateful person who loves to hate everything.

Frustrated shoppers should no longer worry about keeping their receipts in case the present has to be returned.

Tom Cawood may have just the thing, he might even bring a smile to that miserable face.

Tom, 24, a Welland Vale basic food prep student, paints Chinese motifs onto silk scarfs, candle holders, billfolds, place mats, shaving bags and canvas duffle bags.

The extra large duffle bag, which costs $55, would be ideal for carrying laundry and would be a good Christmas present for every College student.

Two friends of his, John and Kerstin Mayberry got him interested in Sumi-e Art about four years ago, but he did not start selling his art until last year.

4 outlets

The public was introduced to the new and up-coming designer this past summer after Tom started marketing his products in Clayton John's Hair Salon, the Old Court House and My Friend and Me in St. Catharines and Southern Limits in Port Dalhousie.

"The white silk scarfs are my favorite because the colors of white and black are the essence of the art," Tom said.

Sumi-e is just a hobby of his; he hopes to enter the Advanced Food Prep Course next semester.

"My end goal is to get my chef papers and travel," he said. "Chefs are needed no matter where you go in the world."

Gives relief

Tom modelled men's clothes, acted in plays, served in the army, and delivered motion pictures before returning to school.

He also enjoys "Olympic style spring board diving" and writing headlines for the Brock University Press on Tuesday night.

Tom's Sumi-e Art may provide relief for the poor over-worked cashiers who are always busy giving refunds to unsatisfied customers.

Sisters overcome fears at Press

By MARIE CHAMBERLAND
Staff Writer

A chill from the outside air quickly melted as visitors to the Brock Playhouse settled in to enjoy the opening night performance of Crimes of the Heart on Nov. 27.

Lush greenery could be seen through the window of a southern country home with its worn old floorcloth scattered sparsely about the room. The setting of this three-act play, written by Beth Henley and directed for Press Theatre by Carol Chrisjohn, was the kitchen of the McGrath family homestead in Hazelehurst, Mississippi.

The story is built around the lives of three sisters, reunited by an attempted murder for which the youngest is being charged. Although quite different from each other, the girls possess an unusually strong bond, having as children survived the suicide of their mother, and the malicious gossip surronding the tragedy.

A vagueness in the story is overshadowed by the excellence of performances by Elizabeth Hanna as Lenny McGrath, Elizabeth Lennie, as Meg McGrath, and Paulina Gillis as Babe(McGrath) Botrell. The reason for their mother's suicide is never really explained, although piecemeal innuendos through each sister's memory of their father provide some insight into the pressures and fears which must have led to it.

By the end of the play, each sister has faced at least one of her fears, and is secure in the fact that they can be conquered, avoiding both insanity and suicide. Lenny, the eldest, and a spinster, resumes a relationship she had ended because of her fear of rejection. Meg, the hard-hearted Mae West-like middle sister, admits that she hasn't really become a singing star in Californa, while Babe, the youngest, and an odd personality combinatin of naive Lenny and streetwise Meg, is able to proceed with standing up to charges of the attempted murder of her boorish lawyer husband.

Because the play deals with some serious themes, the comedic relief provided by Chick Reid as manipulative cousin Chick, and James Haworth as Barnette Lloyd, the young defence attorney with the ever present forced mannerisms of Perry Mason in top form, is even more intense. Derek Boyes plays a believable bourbon-sipping bumpkin from Meg's past, but the idea that he was on his way to becoming an MD is a little hard to swallow.

Those who take life as it comes — usually a lot of tension with a few belly laughs thrown in — would enjoy Crimes of the Heart.

Party

The Frenchship Club invites friends by invitation only to a Christmas party to be held at the Rose Villa in Welland, Dec. 14. Invitations can be obtained at P2 with a "donation" of $7.50.

SPORTS

Knights' basketball

Donna Czainski rushes past a Mohawk player in a Nov. 27 game that resulted in an 84-32 loss for Niagara. In spite of the beating they received, coach Mizette Critelli praised the girls for a game well-played. Mohawk has been blowing out teams 100-30, she said.

Niagara Knights win first game

By HEATHER RITCHIE
Staff Writer

The women basketball Knights won their first game of the season in an exhibition game against the Dunnville Athenas last Wednesday.

A Nov. 22 game with George Brown College was an exciting, quick-paced instant replay of their first loss to the team and on Nov. 27, the Mohawk Mountaineers repeated their previous easy victory 84-32.

"I feel good about our first win," coach Mizette Critelli said. "That's what we needed."

She had stated earlier in November that the girls were down and discouraged about their string of losses.

Time-out pep talks worked for the Knights that night.

"We need one person to flash and one in the middle," coach Critelli said. "We've got to keep cutting up and back.

"Give Mary (Gaudet) something to pass to.

"You guys have got to get down the court; don't give them time to set up."

And so, Niagara won its first game — spectatorless.

EARLIER GAME

George Brown inched ahead in the final few minutes of their Nov. 22 game with the Knights to win 50-47.

It was a heart-breaker, just like the first time the teams played.

Niagara had a 24-18 point lead at halftime; then the margin narrowed. Neck-and-neck for the winning point throughout the second half, they battled for points. The score was 48-47 for George Brown with only seven seconds left in the game.

Niagara's Marcy Vanderzanden was awarded two foul shots which could have won the game, but the pressure was on and she missed.

There were two jump-balls and a missed foul shot for George Brown as both teams fought for a basket.

At the sound of the buzzer, just as in their last game against Niagara, a George Brown player took a long shot at the basket and sank it. This one didn't win the game for them, but it was close and brought back memories.

"It's very frustrating to lose to a team you can beat — you want your first win," Ms. Critelli said.

Donna Czainski was high scorer with 13; Mary Gaudet had eight and Marcy took nine.

AGAINST MOHAWK

Mohawk ran away with their Nov. 27 game against Niagara 84-32.

The Knights were down 24-1 after only 12½ minutes.

Ms. Critelli said she was pleased with the way the girls played; the Mohawk team is strong.

"It wouldn't surprise me if Mohawk is ranked fifth or sixth after Christmas; they've been blowing out teams 100-30," she said. "Next time we'll try to do better — just like we did this time."

Knights come back to defeat Algonquin

By ANGUS GILLESPIE
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team came up with an impressive 77-61 win against the Algonquin Caats despite turning in a dismal first half, being down by four points.

The Niagara attack was led by the outstanding performance of centre Fred Jashanmal who had a season-high 27 points, 20 of which came in the second half.

Whatever Knights' coaches Barry Golob and Russ Stevenson said to the players at halftime of the Nov. 30 game obviously worked.

While the Knights came up with a much better second half, Algonquin totally fell apart. In the first half the Caats played a more physical game, but their two key players ran into early foul trouble and were shut down for the rest of the game.

The turning point came five minutes into the second half, when the league's top scorer, Marcel Langlois, was called for his fourth personal foul. The Algonquin coach perhaps summed it up best when he sarcastically told Langlois to "go warm up the van."

Jashanmal felt he played his best game of the season. "We were getting the ball inside and scoring; it makes sense to use our height advantage."

Asked what was said to the players at halftime, Mr. Golob said defence was emphasized. "With their half court pressure we felt we could catch them off balance with fast execution."

Mr. Stevenson also noted the strong play of guard John Croce, saying it was probably his best game of the year. Croce had nine assists, most of which came setting up Jashanmal inside.

The Caats defeated George Brown the previous night which may have taken its toll as they appeared listless and uncoordinated.

The only crisis Niagara faced during the second half was trying to find the lost contact lens of forward Wayne Williams; but moments later it was found and the Knights continued their assault on the scoreboard.

Top scorers for the Knights were: Jashanmal with 27, Scott Gifford 12, while Larry Bone, Vernon Bovell and Marty Fitzgerald each contributed eight. Langlois led the Caats with 14 and Irvin added 13.

Seasons Greetings

The sports department of the Niagara News wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's hoping you find some skis, skates or a toboggan under the tree.

In any case, get outside in the fresh, crisp winter air and enjoy this snowy season while it lasts.

Knights lose 59-57

By BRIAN TRACY
Staff Writer

Playing their first game of the season against the Seneca Braves, the men's basketball Knights lost another game they could have just as easily won.

Playing on the Braves' home floor Nov. 28, the Knights trailed at halftime by a mere three points, 27-24, despite having a cold shooting hand. The Knights shot only 30 per cent from the field and 57 per cent from the foul line.

Fred Jashanmal led the Knights in scoring during the first half with eight points. Shooting better and playing more aggressively in the second half, Fred wound up with a game high 24 points. Vern Bovell was second high scorer with 13 on the night, followed by Seneca's Keith Golding with 11.

The second half opened with Fred getting a quick five of the first seven points, levelling the game at 29 at the 16:45 mark.

The play see-sawed for the next few minutes until Seneca went on a tear, opening up an eight-point lead. It was one which they never relinquished.

The Knights didn't fold and fought back to within four points with two minutes remaining. Then one of the turning points of the game occurred. Vern was sent in for what is usually, for him, a routine dunk or lay-up. He missed the shot and fouled a Brave on the way down. The two good foul shots completed a four-point swing and left the Knights down by six.

With 58 seconds remaining, tempers and frustration flared; a minor mid-court scuffle ensued. Niagara's Carmine Colorocchio was charged with intentionally fouling Vasco Yarde.

Niagara's coach Russ Stevenson signalled for a time out.

When the Braves inbounded the ball, Marty Fitzgerald immediately fouled, forcing Seneca to the foul-line. The strategy seemed to work as the Braves missed both shots and Fred brought down the rebound. Unfortunately for the Knights, the ball slipped out of Fred's hands and the Braves hung on to the victory.

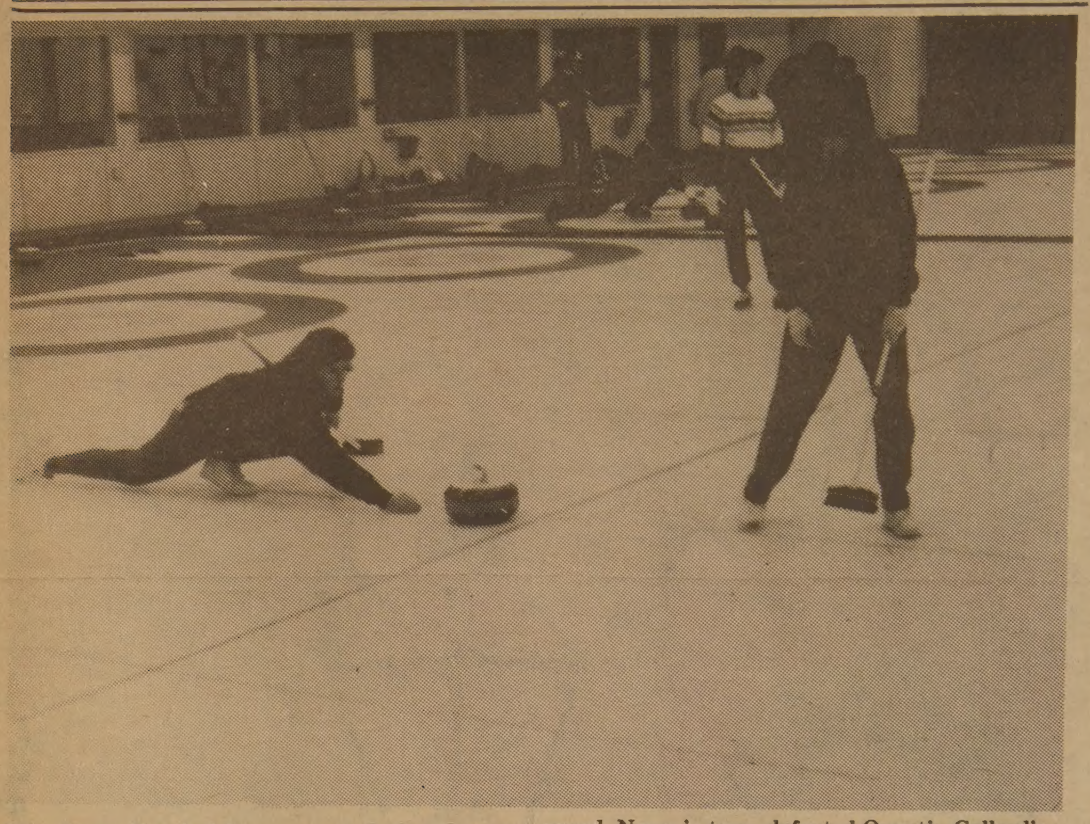
On Bassi, Critelli! Where are Donner and Blitzen?

The athletic department ushers in Christmas with athletic director Peter Rylander playing St. Nick. His two trusty reindeer at the head of the sleigh are portrayed by instructors Mizette Critelli and Fred Bassi.

Photo by Brian Tracy, Heather Ritchie, Angus Gillespie, Wayne Creighton, Joe McCarthy.

SPORTS

Curling / Hockey



Skip Nancy Roach delivers a rock during the second game at the annual Niagara College invitational bonspiel in Welland, Nov. 23. In the second round, Nancy's team defeated Quentin Collard's Niagara men's team 13-4. Second stone for Niagara ladies, Donna Murray, gets ready to sweep.

Niagara teams finish well back, Mohawk wins championship

Skip Debbie Robertson's ladies' rink from Mohawk College captured first place, with 177 points, at the Niagara College invitational bonspiel at Welland Curling Club Nov. 23.

The best Niagara finish was sixth place by skip Nancy Roach's mixed team, skipped by Stephen Jelbert, with 135 points, in seventh spot.

Second and third place were close, with Dale Fanset's mixed team from Fanshawe College earing 154 points, and Brock Firth's men's team from Mohawk taking 153 points. First, second and third winners received prizes.

Six Mohawk teams, four Niagara teams, and two Fanshawe teams entered the competition.

TWO WINS

Niagara coach Don Papple said, "I think the women's team did very well. The only difficulty was different styles, but despite having a new curler in the lead position, the team managed to come up with two wins in three games."

The mixed team played well and was in third place going into the third and final game. It came down to the last rock, Mr. Papple said.

Niagara's men's team, which finished in 10th place, had trouble, but managed to get organized for the third game, Mr. Papple said.

The Senecaspiel was slated for Dec 7 and Dec 8 at the East York Curling Club in Toronto. One men's team, one ladies' team and one mixed team from Niagara were entered.

Strong defensive play leads Niagara to win

A balanced scoring attack in the second game of a two-game homestand gave the Knights a hard fought 56-53 victory against the Geogre Brown Huskies.

The Knights seemed extremely pumped up for the Nov. 22 game after losing the night before to Conestoga. Marty Fitzgerald returned to the lineup and was the steadying force for the team on the floor.

Fred Jashanmal played a strong game under the boards — something coaches Russ Stevenson and Barry Golob feel is necessary for the team's success.

The score was even at 35 at halftime, but both teams got off to slow starts offensively in the second half, with both managing just two points in the first seven minutes of play.

A goaltending charge against the Huskies gave Niagara a psychological boost and a 41-37 lead, and were never behind the rest of the way.

Coach Russ Stevenson felt the team turned in one of its better performances of the year. "We didn't have turnovers and we used the big man (Jashanmal) to perfection.

Mr. Stevenson felt that both squads had improved immensely from their first encounter in early October, a game which the Huskies, won.

George Brown's Winston Allen led all scoreres with 15 points. Joe Lewis had 12 and Daren Holmes 10. Fred Jashanmal topped the Niagara attack with 13 points. Scott Gifford added 10, with Vernon Bovell notching nine and John Croce eight.

Condors swoop over lacklustre Knights

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team was soundly defeated 92-75 by the Conestoga Condors mainly due to a poor effort on the part of the Knights.

Barry Golob and Russ Stevenson, co-coaches, were both more upset with the poor effort, than with the Nov. 21 loss. Neither coach had much to say about the game.

A strong solo effort was turned in by Knight forward Scott Gifford who led all scorers with 26 points.

Good start

Niagara got off to a good start and led 47-45 at halftime. The second half looked promising because the Knights usually play a better second half, but such was not the case against the Condors, who much to their credit, frustrated the Knights with strong defensive plays.

Niagara played without starting guard Marty Fitzgerald, something Mr. Stevenson felt was a major reason for the poor effort of the Knights.

The team often seemed disoriented and confused by the Conestoga squad, a team which Niagara is capable of beating and already has, in a tournament game earlier this season.

Momentum

The change in momentum came at the start of the second half. The Condors outscored the Knights 16-2 for a 61-49 lead and they never looked back.

Condor centre Les Robertson, who led his team with 24 points, fouled out with two minutes to go, but it did not matter as the game was already out of reach. Alex Yandryk had 18 and Mike Gobel 12.

Top Niagara scorers were Gifford with 26, Vernon Bovell 20 and Fred Jashanmsal seven.

Penalty killers pace Niagara to win

By WAYNE CREIGHTON
Staff Writer

Special teams made the difference in a 5-2 victory for the Niagara College men's hockey team over the Erie Community College Kats.

Niagara not only effectively killed off numerous penalties but also scored two shorthanded goals. The Knights also added a powerplay goal.

The win, Niagara's fourth straight and first on the road, gives the Knights a record of four wins and two losses.

Curtis Kelly scored on a rebound from Dennis Imarino's slapshot with Niagara shorthanded to give the Knights the lead. Thirty-one seconds later George Arjeneau went in alone and beat Erie goaltender Gary Bass to give Niagara a 2-0 lead after one period of play in the Nov. 23 game.

Erie finally took advantage of their powerplay chances in the second period. Matt Riter and Mark Penta scored powerplay goals to tie the score after two periods.

LOST MOMENTUM

"Erratic refereeing took away the mometum in the second period," Niagara coach Fred Bassi said.

Carey Robert knocked home a loose puck to regain the lead for Niagara midway through the third period. Wayne Conn tipped home a shot from the point on the powerplay to make it 4-2 Niagara. Brian Ash's shorthanded goal with only 2:43 left capped off a great effort by Niagara's penalty killers and sealed the Kats' fate.

Mr. Bassi was pleased with the effort of the entire team. "Everyone chipped in with a real good effort," he said.

Niagara goaltender Mark Heagle has plenty of help from his teammates in stopping an Erie scoring thrust. Niagara scored three goals in the third period to defeat the Kats 5-2 and take over first place.

Photo By Wayne Creighton

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